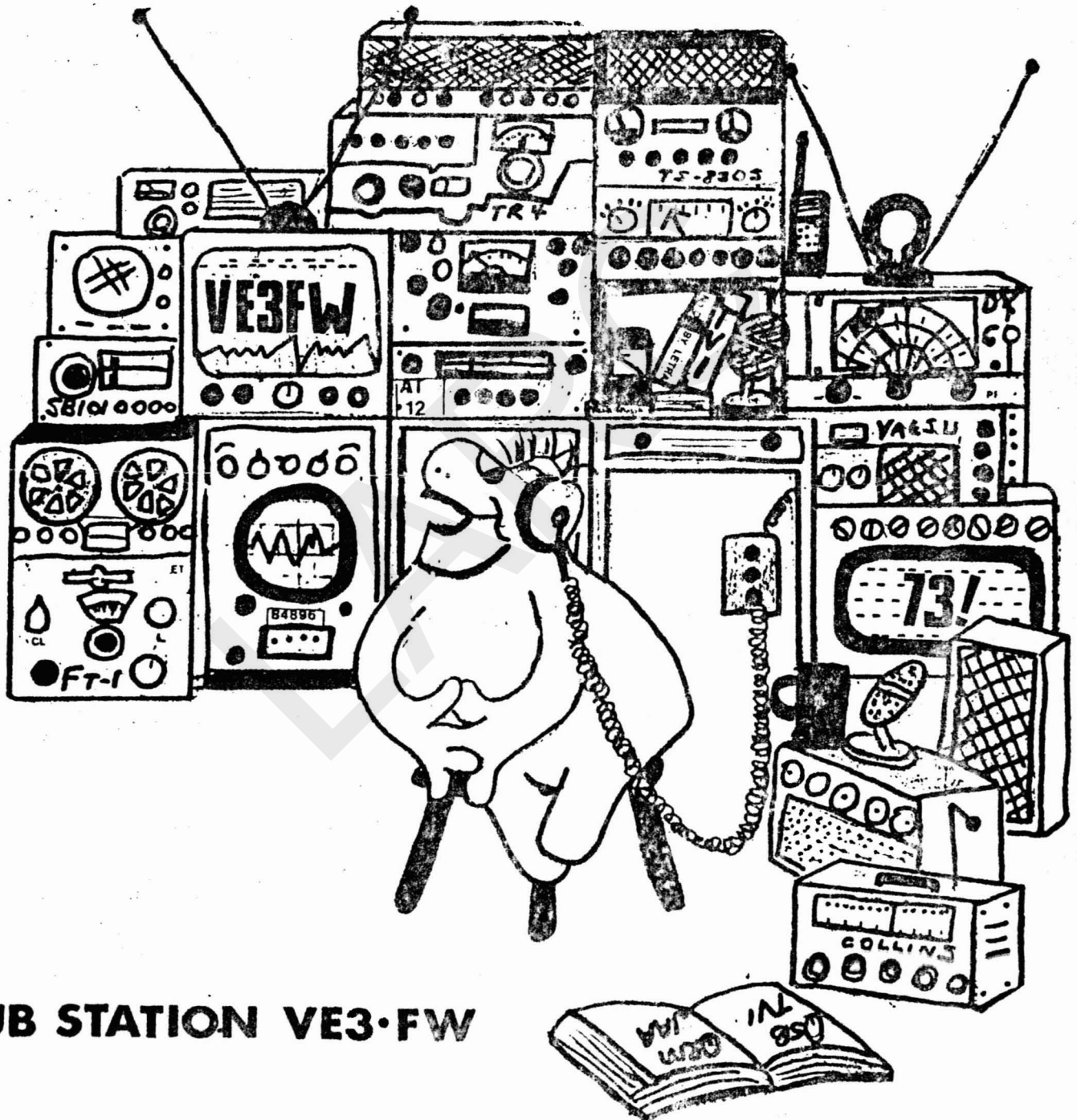


MAR. 85

HI-Q

LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB BULLETIN



CLUB STATION VE3·FW

Founded 1934

Incorporated 1979

THE PREZ SEZ

A special meeting was held on Feb. 17 to discuss the Club's repeaters, and what direction we plan to follow. One or two members are unhappy with the outcome, and have openly questioned its constitutionality. The Constitution is quite clear on this matter. Article 3, amendment B states "the President or Vice President may call a meeting at any time, providing that the membership is duly notified". There were eighteen people present, and the motions presented were passed with no opposition. Details appear in the special meeting report. Hopefully, the matter is now laid to rest.

The Club voted in favour of persuing outside funding to improve our repeaters. I felt it was necessary to notify, and have the membership pass a motion for us to proceed. If we were to wait until the March meeting for approval, it is very likely the autopatch for Mt. Baldy would have to wait for a 1986 installation. Due to the meeting, we now have a clear mandate to put autopatch on Baldy asap, with this summer being the goal.

As this is being written, a suitable presentation is being made. We will be approaching various organizations and companies to help us put together a working autopatch system for Mt. Baldy. It looks very promising that we will be able to improve our "main" repeater system, with autopatch being the main thrust of our presentation.

I think I represent the majority of the members by saying that autopatch has gone from being something "nice to have some day" to a very integral part of our communications effectiveness. We need autopatch, and we need it now. VE3TBR is serving us well but we also need the greater range from Mt. Baldy. The wheels are in motion, and autopatch we shall have, and in my opinion the sooner we get started, the sooner we get what we need.

In closing, my main concern is the best interests of the club as a whole. The membership have made their wishes known, and we are duty bound to follow their directive.

73

Tom VE3CX Prez

DEAR LYN

My hubby recently received his radio licence in the mail (I think--who knows?) Anyway, away he went to the radio store with plastic money in hand (he wanted to borrow mine, but I said no way to that nonsense!) Next thing I know, he bought a new radio, a big stick, and a funny clothes dryer that spins on top. It's up 20 feet, so he can't use it for a clothes dryer! Next thing I know he disappears in the basement, and I hear beep, beep bon, bon beep, beep. When I try to talk to him, that's all he can now say is beep beep etc? Do I call a doctor, the guys with the straight jackets or what do I do? Please help!

SIGNED: HUBBY'S GONE OFF THE DEEP END.

DEAR HUBBY'S GONE OFF THE DEEP END:

It seems your hubby may just be going through a phase (I hope). Does he watch looney tunes on TV? If he does, this is an important indicator. Call the guys with the white coats! However, if he is too busy to watch TV, then that's OK. He is just going thru a phase. It should pass in about ten years or so.

73 de LYN YEAR

DIRTY LAUNDRY

VE3YQT is QRT. VE3ZG has 10 litres of mix. VE3CX (who?) has 133 of mixee. VE3JAA can now fry eggs in stereo while he runs the sal mine net. VE3XJ is headed for a walk down the aisle. VE3MF already went down the aisle. VE3JAR has got a UHF rig that is hot stuff! VE3CK is looking for a smaller (and lighter) HF rig. VE3NHP is a touch-tone speed demon. VE3BBS heard his voice time out the repeater? VE3JVM has a home brew bit-cruncher. VE3KRK is QRV on 2 M. VE3NHN and VE3NHX now run the nite owl net on 15 M CW. VE3AXL received a free speedometer check. VE3NMR is now a big DX gun on 160. He even has a QSL manager.

VE3TBR CHANGES

Elsewhere in this issue of HI-Q, you will find a current function sheet for VE3TBR. I jumped the gun a bit at the end of January, and loaded in the new software--you have had functions, but didn't know it! As you will notice, there are now 2 speed dial functions instead of one.

*7 currently contains everything that has always been here. However, all the emergency type numbers are now in the new (*5) speed dial. The non-ham home phone numbers that were in *7 are accessible from *5, along with a few more. At the end of March, the non-ham home phone numbers in *7 will be removed. If in doubt, consult the function sheet, and enjoy!

Also with the new speed dial, I made a few other changes. They may go unnoticed, so I thought I would point them out. The *6 distress function is no more. In two years of operation, I think it was used only once. Someone brought it up by mistake, and caused some needless concern!

The dial in has also been modified slightly. You still use *3 to answer an incoming call, but I noticed quite a few people would hit *3, then announce "Lakehead Amateur Radio Club...etc", but as far as the repeater was concerned, it did not pick up the phone until you unkeyed you mic! Your call announcement was not heard by the calling party.

The way it answers now is as soon as you release the 3, the phone is answered. No need to unkey. However, this may cause a problem. If your finger bounces on the touch-tone button, the repeater will hang up on you, as it thinks you are trying to make an illegal call (as far as I am concerned). Even though *3 will bring up dial tone, you can't use it to make an outgoing call. It's just one of those things. If it causes a problem, I may change it back to the way it was. I'll be keeping an eye on it to see how it goes.

I have also added an additional tail message--dues--to remind everyone when that time of year rolls around. Let's see, what else have I added? Oh ya, if you time out the repeater (heaven forbid), the repeater will send "to" before the transmitter turns off. This will let the other operator know what happened when you disappear!

I have also done some "house cleaning", making minor changes here and there (you won't notice them) in order to clean up the software. I was able to salvage an additional 1 KB of memory after all the changes were completed. As always, I am open to ideas for additional ideas for VE3TBR. (P.S.--a half volume circuit for the ID'er is in the works).

73 Tom VE3CX

CANADIAN LICENCE FEES...UP!

It's been picked up through the grapevine or I should say the salt mine that the cost of holding your call has been raised from \$13.50 to 20 bills. We should all look on the bright side that twenty dollars is an even number and shorter to write on the cheque. No one likes a price increase on any item but at this amount we still get a bargain considering the value (I mean \$\$\$) of the frequency spectrum we occupy. Feel better? No?... Oh well!

* * *

It's been kicking around in many members minds for a few years that an initiation ceremony should be carried out on new members of our club. A few suggestions have been...

DMX HD-48 Torture Test

-where the candidate jumps off a 48' tower with a bundgi cord attached to his/her/its ankle.

R.F. Field Test

-where the candidate connects their headphones to the R.F. output of their rig... then transmits!

Soldering Test

-where the candidate must flick hot solder onto their nose while calling CQ.

Consumption Test

-where the candidate proves his love for ham radio (and java) by being able to name all the varieties of Robin's Donuts...and consuming each one in one sitting.

Show of Restraint Test

-where the candidate not bring up the time or weather office on TBR for a full week. (This one is too much to ask and would be cruel and unusual punishment even for the most hardy of candidates).

If any members have any more suggestions, remember these are for future members not present ones. We have already paid our dues...have you checked out propagation on 20 lately?

NAME BADGES

Name badges with your name and call engraved on it will be ordered by the Club. If you would like a name badge, please fill in the following form. Cost is \$3.00 ea., tax included. Please print.

NAME _____ CALL _____

NUMBER OF BADGES _____ \$3.00 ea.

Gary CK has some 16' x 20" furnace filters free to someone who can use them.

RADIO ROOM FACELIFT (or should I say major reconstruction)

Well as you may have noticed, the old club room (?) has gone through some pretty drastic changes. It all began with a few trips to the John St. dump. They were so pleased to see us that we decided we would get some more "goodies" for them, and we did. The room got a new paint job from top to bottom with paint supplies donated by Ted Fallen of EMO. One weekend a new operating bench was constructed, and Vic ECV used those old wall-mounted tables to produce a super bookcase for our old QST's.

Ed KRP receives the "Scrounger of the Year Award" for acquiring through his efforts a sofa, chairs, coffee table, vinyl covering for the operating bench, a fridge (for the pop) and even two paintings. And, how could I even dream of leaving out the curtains which add some "pizazz" to the room! Amateurs who assisted in cleaning, painting, building or donating were Gary CK, Tom CX, Vic ECV, Arnold JAA, Dennis JAQ, Ed KRP, Ian LMI (who also picked up a new refuse can) Bob NHH, Duane NHP, Linda NHX and Bill XJ (for the carpet) and my XYL Coral who hemmed the curtains. We now have a comfortable Club Room and hopefully some interest will go back into the H.F. set, contesting scene and lead to some better equipment. It really gives one a good feeling to have helped out on this project and instills a feeling of pride.

We hope now when a prospective amateur or out of towners asks to see the club room the answer won't be "you don't want to see that dump", but "THIS WAY!"

73 Gary VE3CK

NEW CLUB BANNER

Arnold, VE3JAA comes to the rescue again. Several years ago, he had a friend of his, Kay is her name, make up a flag for the Club. Since that time, it has gone astray. Where it went, no one knows. Since the Club is quite active in supplying communications for a number of events, he felt a new banner was in order to announce our presence.

Arnold called upon his friend once again, then this time, she made us a 2 foot by 6 foot banner with "Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Communications" written on it. Kay did a beautiful job on it, and our new banner will have (had) its debut at the Sibley Ski Tour.

The new banner will be stored in the Club room at the EMO building. I would like to call on all members to ensure that our new banner does not go astray. Once is bad, twice is unforgivable.

Tom VE3CX

QRZ?

Two locals have recently changed calls and joined the ranks of the OT's. We are getting lots of VE3?? So we figured once it's in print, it should help clear the confusion. VE3CK is Gary ex VE3HJS and VE3CX is Tom ex VE3EEW. In our discussions with the DOC, we found out the "requirements" for a two letter call. You must be licenced for at least ten years and hold advanced Amateur status. You also have to apply.

Now that call sign plates are \$25.00, we both have applied for new plates. Gary, VE3CK is having some difficulties as the previous holder of VE3CK has not turned in his call sign plates. The MTC was also wondering about the "5 digit call signs"--they expect six digits. Oh well--it's all part of the trials and tribulations of changing calls.

Tom VE3CX.

MORE MEETINGS

In Duluth, the Arrowhead Radio Amateur Radio Club holds regular meetings 12 months a year. They used to take the summer months of July and August off, but they decided to give this idea a try. A similar move has been suggested for our club. The idea that prompted this suggestion was that during the 2 months that there are no meetings, Amateur Radio takes a back seat in favour of other interests.

When the meetings resume in September, it takes a few months to get things rolling again. We almost fell into this trap this year as I feel the code classes should have started earlier, and a few other activities had to be shelved as there was not enough time to get things organized. For the 1985 year, I would like to try to hold regular meetings, and see how they work out. The fire may be on low, but at least it will stay lit.

1985 L.A.R.C. DINNER/DANCE

The Big Event of the year was held at the Airline on February 2nd. There were about 30 people present at the bash, with Vic JAR and Dianne JAW and Glen JAU and Gwen coming in from out of town. Tom CX started the show off by getting Ralph MZX to say grace, then Skip BBS led the toast to the Queen followed by Les AYZ who proudly toasted to the Old-Timers, reminding us all of our proud heritage.

After a wonderful smorg the draw for the Texas Mickey was held, and Ralph MZX drew..you guessed it, Tom CX's number! A number of humourous awards were presented; they were to:

Arnold JAA - GOOD GUY AWARD - for the promotion of activity in the area (salt mine net) and for being on call 24 hrs. to aid other hams in distress.

Ed KRP - SANTA CLAUS AWARD - for getting the old guy out to our Dec. Meeting.

Vic JAR, Dianne JAW - GET OUTA TOWN AWARD - for being the only ones to take this cliché seriously.

Glen JAU, Gwen DX - award for the people who came the farthest to come to the Dinner/Dance.

Mike HZW - GOOD GUY AWARD - for putting aside his own projects to get other ones done (namely making these awards).

Ralph MZX - MILE HIGH STEEPLE AWARD - to the only ham with his antenna mounted on a church.

Pat HFS & his sec. Darla - MR. PRINT AWARD - for getting HI-Q printed and mailed each month.

A big thanks goes to Ed KRP for procuring door prizes for the event from various places and Mike HZW for getting the albums. There were a variety of prizes including a solar powered calculator, a few frying pans, keg glasses & certificates, a coffee set and albums. Phil AXL from Northern Crystal also donated a jug of the best mix around. Each lady also received a carnation. Dancing by party sound continued to about midnight. Surprisingly the loss (\$\$) to the Club was minor (under \$30). All in all everyone who attended had a good time and isn't that what it's all about?

TEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH - March 1975

The March meeting was to get under way with a number of interesting film on technical topics. VE3AXL Phil built himself a one-meter two meter wattmeter (eeks!). VE3BCD Laurie repaired Phil's HM101 and Pat VE3HFS had ordered a fq. counter for his rig. VE3ARN Bill sold all his H.F. gear, VE3EFC Bill tried out as Net Control and Bill VE3EEM had a new Bird (which later met an early death after falling a few hundred feet. Les VE3AYZ had 2 two meter rigs and Oscar 7 was up and on 10 meters! Frank AJ submitted a delightful article on Murphy (not JAA) and YQT was having its troubles. The new Heath SB104 was mentioned as plagued with problems early in its life and they were correct...see! they had junk back then too!

LARC

SPECIAL MEETING HELD

A special meeting was held at the EMO building on Sunday, Feb. 17. There were 18 people present, 16 full members. As most of you know, VE3YQT is currently off the air due to long standing technical difficulties. The meeting was called by club president Tom, VE3CX to discuss what direction the club will persue to get the new repeater operational on Mt. Baldy.

Breifly, the following proposals were made, and passed with a 100% majority in favour of them. The club will persue outside funding to purchase a Micro Control Specialties Mark 4 repeater controller. This controller will be incorporated into the new repeater currently under construction for Mt. Baldy. The repeater will be changing from the current 46/Ø6 pair to 147.66 in/147.Ø6 out. This conforms to the current American 2 meter bandplan, and will eliminate the problem of stations using 146.46 simplex. There is also talk of 20 khz spacing being implimented to replace the current 30 khz spacing. This new frequency pair is compatable with either bandplan.

The repeater will also be getting a new identity. It will be changing from the current call of VE3YQT to VE3TBO (Thunder Bay, Ontario). The letters 'YQT' are the Thunder Bay airport designator. The new call is more representative of the area, and will go along with the 2 other repeaters here with 'TB' calls, namely VE3TBR and VE3TBU.

A UHF link system will be employed for the VE3TBO autopatch due to phone line reliability problems on Mt. Baldy. The controller that we will be purchasing has most of the features currently available in VE3TBR, and is also capable of full repeater linking. It also has various other optional items such as a voice mailbox, remote telemetry and receiver voting. In my opinion, it is an excellent choice for a repeater controller.

VE3TBO is expected to be operational this summer, with full autopatch capabilities. In 1986, we will be looking at improving the current antenna system with the addition of 2 or 3 short yagis. The main emphasis of this plan is to increase range and minimize dead spots. Once VE3TBO is operational, we will have to decide the future of VE3TBR. Personally, I don't think we need, and we can't afford the luxury of 2 autopatch repeaters. However, 2 repeaters are nice to have, one to serve us with autopatch, long range coverage and also act as a 'calling channel'. The other repeater would serve a local 'chit-chat' channel and provide a backup for the other repeater.

Since autopatch will not be needed in VE3TBR, the need for the TRS-80 controller is eliminated. We have several options open to us, including selling VE3TBR as a complete, working autopatch repeater, keeping it with the computer, or removing the computer and using the control shelf that has already been built. For the time being however, I would prefer to keep VE3TBR running as it is, and we can decide what to do with it at a future date. At this time, all options are open to us, and it would be a bit premature to decide at this time what will happen to it.

To some, these changes seem drastic and uncalled for. Perhaps, but I don't think so, and it seems most members agree. A lot of time and effort has gone into getting the new repeater operational, and it will not go to waste. The receiver, transmitter, power supply and cabinet will be used with the Mark 4 controller to get autopatch on Mt. Baldy. This is the primary concern at this time, and from there our options are flexible, depending on what transpires over the next few months.

It is unfortunate that the new repeater for Mt. Baldy has been under construction for so long. Over the years, the club wants and needs change. The new repeater, as it was being built, had no provisions for changing, short of rebuilding from scratch. With the new controller that we will be purchasing, it is easily updated through software changes, and will be able to serve our current needs, and can be changed and updated in the future as the wants and needs of the club change. This is part of the problem that has caused long delays with the new repeater, and over the years I have had to make minor changes here and there to VE3TBR to cover our changing needs. I would also like to mention that had the new repeater made it 'up the hill' as planned several years ago, that we would probably be looking at a commercial controller at this time, or in the near future, due to changing needs and opinions. It is an idea whose time has come.

Autopatch is no longer a luxury item that can be provided on a "when ready" basis. The fact that the club purchased VE3TBR when we did is evidence of that fact. VE3TBR has served us well over these past few years, providing us with a dearly needed service, but the time has come for us to expand our horizons, and put a good, working autopatch that will fill our needs now and in the future. Hopefully, everyone will come to realize that the club made a wise decision to 'go commercial'.

Tom VE3CX - President

VE3TBR FUNCTION SHEET

*1 - AUTOPATCH	*2 - TESTPAD	*3 - DIAL IN
*4 - AUTOPATCH	*5 - EME SPEED DIAL	*7 - SPEED DIAL
*8 - TIME	*9 - REDIAL	*Ø5 - WEATHER OFFICE
* - RESET AUTOPATCH 5 MIN TIMER	# - TERMINATE ALL FUNCTIONS	

SINGLE BEEP - RESET TIME-OUT TIMER DOUBLE BEEP - SEVERE WEATHER WATCH
TRIPPLE BEEP - DIAL IN (345-5552) - USE *3 TO ANSWER
SPECIAL BEEP - EMERGENCY - PLEASE QSY TO VE3YQT
ANY DIGIT FOR 1Ø SECONDS - DISTRESS

TAIL MESSAGES

MEET - MEETING NIGHT RACE - LEGION 1Ø MILE - HEART OF THUNDER BAY
SKI - SIBLEY SKI TOUR VOTE - ELECTION DAY REMINDER
DUES - ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW DUE

EMERGENCY SPEED DIAL (*5)

ØØ - POLICE	12 - McKELLAR	4Ø - AIR CANADA
Ø1 - OPP	13 - ST. JOSEPH	41 - NORDAIR
Ø2 - FIRE	2Ø - EMO	42 - AUSTIN
Ø3 - FOREST FIRE	22 - ROAD INFORMATION	5Ø - LOTTERY LINE
Ø4 - AMBULANCE	23 - CITY HALL	51 - MOVIE
Ø5 - WEATHER OFFICE	24 - OML	52 - ENTERTAINMENT LINE
1Ø - GENERAL HOSPITAL	3Ø - TOW N	53 - SKI
11 - LPH	31 - TOW S	

SPEED DIAL (*7)

1Ø - JAY	25 - JQ-	57 - HZW
11 - ARN	26 - GOW	6Ø - NHN
12 - LMG	27 - LMN	61 - EDZ
13 - AYZ	28 - BCD	62 - AJ
14 - NHX	32 - AHD	64 - IY
15 - XJ	33 - EFZ	65 - KRN
16 - HFS	36 - LML	66 - NNR
17 - LMI	4Ø - AXL	69 - CX
18 - NNG	44 - HTM	7Ø - KRV
2Ø - WF	46 - MZX	76 - AVS
21 - JAA	5Ø - EFC	77 - KRO
22 - HPT	55 - JAJ	88 - KRP
23 - BBS	56 - CK	99 - KRD
24 - ECV		

LARC